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Your Reference: HL83599/ASG/par  
Application No: GB 0225505.7

6 March 2003

Dear Sirs

**Patents Act 1977: Search Report under Section 17(5)**

I enclose two copies of my search report and two copies of the citations.

**Plurality of invention/conciseness**

Your claims are not concise with the multiplicity of independent claims obscuring the nature of the invention. Consequently the search only covers claim 1 and it remains for the applicant to clearly express any further inventions that may be contained within the claims. The applicant should be aware that it almost certain that the substantive examiner will require amendment before examination should the set of claims remain in their current form when a F10/77 is submitted.

**Publication**

I estimate that, provided you have met all formal requirements, preparations for publication of your application will be completed soon after 6 May 2003. You will then receive a letter informing you of completion and telling you the publication number and date of publication.

**Amendment/withdrawal**

If you wish to file amended claims for inclusion with the published application, or to withdraw the application to prevent publication, you must do so before the preparations for

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<sup>†</sup>Use of E-mail: Please note that e-mail should be used for correspondence only.



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publication are completed. **No reminder will be issued.** If you write to the Office less than 3 weeks before the above completion date, please mark your letter prominently: "**URGENT - PUBLICATION IMMINENT**".

Yours faithfully

*Nicholas Mole*

Nicholas Mole  
Examiner



Application No: GB 0225505.7  
Claims searched: 1

Examiner: Nicholas Moile  
Date of search: 5 March 2003

### Patents Act 1977 : Search Report under Section 17

#### Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Relevant to claims	Identity of document and passage or figure of particular relevance	
Y	1	GB 2343691 A	(SHELL) see whole document
Y	1	GB 2325949 A	(BAKER HUGHES) see esp. page 10 lines 4-21
Y	1	US 5447201	(MOHN) see esp. col. 2 lines 18-36
Y	1	US 4942926	(LESSI) see esp. col. 4 lines 31-52

#### Categories:

X Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
& Member of the same patent family	E Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

#### Field of Search:

Search of GB, EP, WO & US patent documents classified in the following areas of the UKC<sup>V</sup>:

E1F

Worldwide search of patent documents classified in the following areas of the IPC<sup>7</sup>:

E21B

The following online and other databases have been used in the preparation of this search report:

WPI EPODOC JAPIO